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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
5 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Offshore Island Situation

General

Except for small scale Nationalist air attacks on Communist shipping in the Tachen area there has been little military action in the offshore islands during the past 24 hours. Indications continue that the Communists are making additional preparations for an attack on the Tachens.

Weather

For the next 24 hours conditions will be generally favorable for both air and surface operations. Winds are of 10-20 knots in velocity. Visibility is good except for patches of surface fog during morning and evening hours. Temporary local fog conditions could be used by Communist forces to cover close reconnaissance or mask assembled assault vessels.

Tachens

Communist naval forces continue to demonstrate their control of waters in the Tachen area. Five Communist naval ships are reported maintaining a continuous patrol between Yushan, Nationalist outpost 35 miles northeast of the Tachens, and Communist-held Tungchi island located due north of the Tachens. Six small Communist junks reportedly conducted reconnaissance patrols from Ichang which came within 6,000 yards of the Tachens. 25X1

PACOM Review
Completed

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Evacuation of civilians and non-combatants from islands in the Tachen Defense Command continues. As of 4 February about 800 civilians had been removed from the Tachens, the majority by junk lift. Current Nationalist plans call for the eventual evacuation of 21,000 civilians and military dependents from the Tachens, Yushan, Pishan and Nanchishan. First mention of civilian evacuation from Nanchishan--85 miles southwest of the Tachens--came from the Nationalist defense ministry on 3 February. Plans to remove civilians from Nanchi suggest that Taipei is not sanguine regarding the future of island. In November there were indications the Nationalists planned to convert Nanchishan into a "northern defense anchor" if a withdrawal from the Tachens became necessary.

Nanchishan, formerly a part of the Tachen Defense Command, has been placed under an independent command directly subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense in Taipei. The former deputy commander of the Tachen Defense Command has been named as head of the new Nanchi command.

Matsu

Negative.

Quemoy

Negative.

Prospects for Cease-fire

No change since the last report.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director,
Current Intelligence